

THE FORTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

WITH
Tabular Returns of Mortality,
For the Year 1919,

BY
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending, 31st December, 1919.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HEXHAM,
February, 1920.

MRS. WILKINSON AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for your district for the year 1919. The Statistics part of this report will deal with the complete year, though personally, I only returned to duty in the district from Military Service on April 1st, 1919. I wish to record here my indebtedness to Dr. Boustead for carrying on my work during my absence.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

AREA.—The area of the Hexham Rural District is 196,809 acres, being the second largest Rural District in England and Wales. It is divided into the following subdistricts:—

		Population.	
		1911 Census.	1919.
ALLENDALE	51,833 acres.	4,907	4,710
BYWELL	46,638 „	6,992	6,835
CHOLLERTON	50,531 „	5,380	5,207
HEXHAM	47,807 „	4,608	4,473
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	196,809	21,887	21,225

INDUSTRIES.—The chief industry of the district is agriculture. Quarrying is carried on in several parts of the district, of stone both for building and road repairing. In the Settling-stones district Barytes is mined and exported. Coal mining exists chiefly in the Eastern part of the Tyne Valley. In the Allendale district Lead mining is one of the industries now becoming extinct.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.—The Local Government Board Order stated that a Medical Officer “ shall give the Physical Features of his district.” I am indebted to the late Professor Lebour for many of the particulars here given.

The principal feature of the district is of course the Valley of the Tyne and of the South Tyne, by which it is divided into Northern and Southern halves of fairly equal dimensions. The *Thalweg* of the East and West Valley is necessarily the line of lowest surface level in the region, and has a fall varying from about 13 feet per mile above Hexham, to less than 6 or 7 feet per mile below, as far as Wylam. The Northern half of the district is itself divided by the Valley of the North Tyne, with a fall of about 13 feet per mile. The region south of the main Tyne Valley is traversed by the South to North Valleys of the Allen, Devil's Water, and smaller streams, and of their respective tributaries, whose sources are situated within the district on the high ground of the Allendale Common, and Blanchland Moor. The Derwent River, for several miles of its course runs in a deeply eroded valley, and forms part of the Southern Boundary, which there coincides with that of the County of Northumberland. Speaking generally, the ground within the area ranges from between nearly 2,000 feet on the one hand, and 37 feet on the other, above sea-level, most of it being between 400 and 800 feet. In Coalcleugh, at the top of the West Allen Valley is situated the highest inhabited hamlet in England. It is therefore a region of fairly high ground, copiously drained by numerous rapid rivers and streams, whose valleys, often broad, are in general steeped-sided, and sometimes even precipitous and gorge-like, as in the dales of the North Tyne at Warden, and the Devil's Elbow of the South Tyne at Allerwash, of the Main Tyne at Thornbrough, of the Allen at the Iron Gates, of the Devil's Water at Swallowship, and elsewhere. Notwithstanding this occasional scarped character of the valleys, much of the surface occupied by them is made up of (a) Broad alluvial flats (“ haughs”) filling in the loop of the winding streams with loam, sand, and shingle; (b) similar, but older, terraced accumulations rising tier above tier up the lower flanks to—in some places, as between Hexham and Haydon Bridge—a height of 300-400 feet above sea-level. The high gravel terraces of this kind are made up almost entirely of sand and pebbles belonging to the Glacial Drift, and many of the ancient settlements are situated upon them, wholly or in part, such as Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, Hunshaugh, etc.

The glacial gravels and sand just mentioned often overlie the Glacier Boulder Clay, blue or brown, stiff and impervious, from which they are partly derived, and this Boulder Clay is to

be found irregularly distributed, up most of the valleys and over the lower ground generally, but seldom above the 1000 feet contour line.

All the rest of the district—all of it that is free from alluvial deposit (whether of river origin or peat) and Glacial Drift—is made up of sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous System with later igneous rock injected among them. In the order of their predominance these rocks consist of :—

(a) GRITS AND SANDSTONES (Locally “Freestone”).—These occur everywhere and are the thickest and most widely spread members of all three of the chief groups of the system, viz :—The Coal-measures, the Millstone Grit, and the Bernician, or Carboniferous, Limestone Series. They are the chief water bearing strata, and yield the invariably used building stone of Hexhamshire and Tynedale. All the high, peaty, heather clad moorland country standing on the local watersheds between the various dales, is formed of this type.

(b) SHALES (Locally “Metal” or “Plate”).—Those beds intervening between the harder strata such as the Sandstones occurring throughout the Carboniferous divisions, cause most of the softer concave features of the region, and to their easier erosion are due most of the many small waterfalls which so picturesquely diversify the burn scenery—a shale bed being in almost every case undercut beneath the sandstone stratum over which the burn falls—as at Dilston, for instance. The junction of these shales with sandstone also determines the occurrence of lines of natural springs, and the frequent presence in them of ironstone often renders the waters chalybeate.

(c) LIMESTONES. These are found only in the lowest of the three large divisions of the Carboniferous system here. They occur as comparatively thin beds, rarely attaining 30 feet, and most of them much thinner, at many horizons in the Bernician Series, interbedded with Sandstone, Shales, and Coal. Their outcrops are characterised by special vegetation, finer herbage, a warmer surface, and often by quarries and lime kilns, and it is in them that the lead veins of the region (Allenheads, Haydon Bridge, Newbrough, and Blanchland mining areas) have yielded most ore. They are responsible for the hardness which characterizes much of the water.

(d) COAL.—The lower seams of the Coal measures occur within the district in its Eastern portion, crossing the Valley of the Tyne between Stocksfield and Ovingham. They are largely worked and are the reason of the mining population at Prudhoe, Mickley, Wylam, and neighbouring villages. The same seams are found again in a narrow out-lier running from Whittington

to Grey Mare Hill, and again an outcrop on the hill facing west above the New Ridley Road, at Stocksfield. These seams are also found along the north side of a great fault known as the Stublick Dyke, as a series of small coalfields having an East and West trend, and running from a mile or two to the south of the Tyne at Hexham, to the high ground immediately south of Haydon Bridge. Several much older seams of coal occur also (as regards England, only in the County of Northumberland on such a scale) in the Bernician Series, and valuable collieries have been, from time to time, opened out to work them. The size of Acomb is due to coal of this age worked near that village, and smaller collieries of the same kind are, or have been, worked at Fourstones, Fallowfield, Halton, Whittington, Gunnerton, Thorngraston, and other places.

(e) GANNISTER AND FIRE-CLAYS.—Both occur in the district, Gannister in the lower Coal Measures beneath the Brockwell Seam to the South East of Stocksfield, and at Fourstones, and Fireclays beneath almost all the coal seams at whatever horizon, as well as independent beds, as in the neighbourhood of Corbridge.

From the point at which the Roman Wall enters the district from the west, to Tæpper Moor, and thence in a somewhat broken line by Gunnerton to Throckington, there runs the prominent outcrop of the great intrusive sheet of igneous rock (Basalt or Whinstone) which is one of the most remarkable topographical and geological features of the district. It is known as the Great Whin Sill, is here about 100 feet thick, and is quarried for purposes of paving and road-making generally.

RATEABLE AND ASSESSABLE VALUES.—The rateable value of the District is £233,351, and the assessable value is £181,950.

POOR LAW RELIEF.—The amount expended in Poor Law Relief during the year ending 31st March, 1919, was, in In-maintenance, £880 os od; and in out-relief £1584, being a total of £2,464 os od.

There are no medical charities within the area. The Royal Victoria Infirmary is used as the centre, to which the various workmen's organisations contribute weekly. This does not however supply adequate accommodation for the area it has to serve, as is evidenced by its large waiting list. A point of great importance with regard to it is the difficulty of transport between the various parts of this district and that Institution. The ambulance transport of the Royal Red Cross and Order of St. John of Jerusalem has done great and good work, but this is a matter that ought, in my opinion, to be taken on by the State, as has been done in other respects under the National Health Insurance Act.

The only public Institution situated within the district is BARRASFORD SANATORIUM, which serves a large area of the north.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's figures for 1919 not being to hand, the rates given below are calculated upon an estimated population based upon the Food Control Register, viz.:—21,225.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1919 there were registered 367 births in the district. Of these 194 were males and 173 females. These figures include 26 illegitimate births of which 14 were males and 12 females.

These figures give a uncorrected birth-rate of 17.2 per 1000, as compared with 16.2 in 1918.

The uncorrected births are distributed as follows.

Subdistrict.	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
ALLENDALÉ	1918	36	32	3	5	39	37	76
	1919	44	33	5	3	49	36	85
BYWELL	1918	63	51	2	7	65	58	123
	1919	63	49	4	2	67	51	118
CHOLLERTON	1918	40	42	1	—	41	42	83
	1919	40	44	3	6	43	50	93
HEXHAM	1918	38	31	2	4	40	35	75
	1919	32	36	2	1	34	37	71

The Registrar General, through transferable births gives 376 births for the year, giving a CORRECTED BIRTH RATE of 17.7 per 1000.

DEATHS.—There have been registered in the district 259 deaths. To these must be added 29 deaths of persons residing in the district, but who died elsewhere. There must also be deducted 10 deaths of persons who belonged elsewhere, but who died in the district.

From the above figures the NETT death rate is 13.09 per 1,000.

In comparing the death rate with other places, and with England and Wales, the age and sex constitution of the popu-

lation has to be taken into account. For instance, the average age at death of females is greater than that of males, and in comparing the death rates of any two areas the one containing a preponderance of women would show a correspondingly low death rate, other things being equal.

Of more importance, however, is the age distribution of the population.

The tendency to death is greatest amongst persons living at the extremes of life, i.e., among infants and old people, and a district containing a large proportion at the extremes of life, would therefore have a correspondingly high death rate, other things being equal. To overcome these discrepancies, a "factor for correction" must be obtained from the "standard" death rate. The "factor for correction" for the Hexham Rural District is 0.9378. The "recorded" death rate is multiplied by this factor, the resultant figure gives the "corrected" death rate, which is 12.27 per 1,000 of the population. The chief causes of death are set out on the following table, showing the respective sub-districts.

	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Totals
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and M. Croup ...	...	1	...	...	1
Influenza ...	5	3	3	2	13
Pulm. Tuberculosis ...	*6	5	1	2	14
Other " ...	3	2	1	...	6
Cancer ...	3	7	7	11	28
Rheumatic Fever ...	2	...	1	1	4
Meningitis ...	1	1	...	1	3
Organic Heart Disease ...	13	22	6	8	49
Bronchitis ...	13	1	7	2	23
Pneumonia ...	1	9	...	3	13
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	...	1	...	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	1	...	...	1	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	2	7	1	4	14
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy	2	3	2	1	8
Premature Birth ...	...	2	5	3	10
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicides ...	2	2	2	3	9
Suicides ...	1	2	...	...	3
Other Defined Diseases ...	18	32	17	8	75
Certified ...	69	93	47	46	255
Uncertified ...	6	6	7	4	23
TOTALS ...	75	99	54	50	278

*Three transferable away.

INFANT MORTALITY. — The rate of Infant Mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths of children under the age of one year to each thousand births registered, corresponds to 57·3, as compared with 88·8 in the previous year.

The percentage of Infant Deaths to deaths at all ages is 7·5%, and the Infant Death Rate calculated per thousand of the population is 0·98. The total number of infant deaths was 21. Of these, 10, or nearly 50%, took place during the first week, and 12, or 57·1%, during the first four weeks of life. The analysis of these deaths is given in Table IV.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—The so-called Zymotic Death Rate is calculated upon the deaths per thousand of the population, which occurred from the following seven diseases :—Smallpox, Scarletina, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Measles, Whooping-Cough, and Enteritis (under two years of age).

The total number of these is :—

Diphtheria	...	...	1,
Whooping-Cough	...	...	1,

giving a Zymotic Death Rate of ·09 per thousand.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company supply several villages in the Eastern portion of the district, including WYLAM, OVINGHAM, and part of BROOMLEY. This supply is highly satisfactory. It has practically no solvent action on lead pipes, and is not exposed to any risk of contamination. The gathering ground is on the boundary of this district. The chief reservoirs are at Whittle Dene, Hallington, and Colt Crag.

STOCKSFIELD (Station Area).—The lower portion of Stocksfield is supplied by the Stocksfield Water Company. This water comes from Broomley, whence it gravitates to the area of supply. It is a very soft water, and is liable to intermittent surface pollution.

RIDING MILL.—This village is supplied from a spring situated to the south. This is a private supply. The water runs in an open channel for a considerable distance into a small reservoir, whence it gravitates to the consumer. This supply is very prone to contamination and is visibly polluted after heavy rain. A number of villas erected on the building estate are supplied by springs which collect into a tank and thence to these houses. This supply would not be adequate for the whole village, and a purer supply is required here.

HEDLEY.—The supply for this village is pumped from the valley to the north of the village to a reservoir situated to the

south. The supply is fairly good, but insufficient in quantity to tide over any drought period.

WHITTONSTALL.—The water supply for this village is one pump in the middle of the village. As there are pit workings under here, there is grave risk of this supply petering out completely at any time. There is also a spring at a distance of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile to the East of the village, which is extensively used. This village, along with HEDLEY, is situated in the area of the Weardale and Consett Water Company, and the formation of a Joint Water Board is under consideration, and it is to be hoped that if they acquire the powers they seek, that they will do something to help the water supply in these areas.

CORBRIDGE.—The main village of Corbridge, situated on the north side of the river Tyne obtains its supply from Holley Hall Farm and Shaw Well. This supply is pure, wholesome, plentiful in quantity, and has no action on lead piping. That part of the village on the south side of the river is supplied from the Snowdrop Well and another spring. This water is very soft in quality, and contains Carbonic Acid in excess, and as a result has a definite action on lead piping and also on iron utensils. It was pointed out to the local Parish Council how this should be treated, but they elected to do nothing in the matter, and so the trouble remains. During the drought in the latter part of the year under report, this supply proved inadequate, and severe shortage was felt, especially in the higher situations in this locality.

COLWELL.—This village is supplied by a spring on the side of the Hexham road. The quality and quantity have so far given no ground for complaint.

GREAT WHITTINGTON.—This is a new supply since last pre-war report. The source is a spring situated to the north-west of the village, and is collected in a reservoir near the school. It is served through stand pipes, and is satisfactory in every way, and a great improvement on the old supply, which had to be carried nearly a quarter of a mile.

WALL.—This village has an excellent water supply. It comes from springs situated to the north-east of the village, passes to a covered-in reservoir, thence to the consumer. It is of excellent quality and sufficient quantity.

BARRASFORD.—This village is supplied by a spring to the south of the whinstone quarry. This is collected into a tank and gravitates to the consumers. It is pure and plentiful.

GUNNERTON.—This village is supplied from a spring near the burnside. It goes direct from the spring to a chamber fitted

with a tap. It is of good quality and of ample quantity. There are also a number of private wells and springs.

SIMONBURN.—The supply for here comes from a spring on the north-west of the village, and is led by pipes to the consumers' premises. This is a private supply. There have been no complaints regarding this water, either in respect of quantity or quality.

ANICK.—This supply is privately owned. It is a spring on the north side of the village. There have never been any complaints of this water.

ACOMB.—This supply comes from Silver Hill, and is augmented near the reservoir by a supply drawn from Salmon's Well, on the road-side, beside the farm of that name. The Silver Hill supply is of excellent quality, but in the summer the quantity is apt to be short. This was particularly the case this last year, and steps must be taken to augment this supply further. The additional supply mentioned was being polluted by an overflow from troughs, but on this being discovered, the overflow was cut off, only the water direct from the spring—which is absolutely pure—being now taken. These two supplies are collected in a reservoir, and gravitate to the consumers.

NEWTON.—This is a supply direct from the spring through pipes to the consumers. The quality is good, but the supply is insufficient

OVINGTON.—This supply comes from springs situated in a field about a quarter of a mile to the north of the village. There have been several complaints about this water, and analysis shows it to be liable to surface pollution. The collecting tank is situated in a position which lays it open to surface water, and requires attention. It is supplied to the consumers through stand-pipes in the roadway, and is sufficient in quantity.

HORSLEY.—This village has one pump on the side of the main road, in the centre of the village. There has been no question of the quality of this supply, and the quantity is well sustained. There are also some private wells.

BLANCHLAND.—The supply for this village comes from a spring near the quarry on Hotburn Hill. It is piped to a reservoir beside the village, whence it gravitates to the consumer. It is a private supply, is of excellent quality, and sufficient quantity.

HUMSHAUGH.—This supply comes from springs lying to the north-west of the village, which discharge into a reservoir, whence it gravitates to the houses supplied. It is a soft water, with slight lead-solvent action, and would be improved by addi-

tion of limestone at the collecting tank. It is very pure. The quantity here is not excessive.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—This village is supplied from springs near Nubbock, with a reservoir in the neighbourhood of Elrington Hall. The supply as far as the intake tank is both pure and plentiful, but owing to reduction in diameter, the service pipe does not carry off as much as the intake, and the resultant supply in the village is deficient in quantity. At the end of the year steps are being taken to improve this supply. The water is there for the taking, and of excellent quality.

FOURSTONES AND NEWBROUGH.—Part of Fourstones is supplied by a spring on Frankham Farm. This supplies Kiln Cottages, and Station Cottages and premises. Fourstones Farm and cottages are supplied by a spring situated to the north of the farm. The Newbrough School area, along with Butt Bank Cottages, are supplied from a spring situated to the north of the school premises. This is a good supply, and fairly adequate in quantity. Beside the stand-pipe from this spring, in the neighbourhood of the School, there was a runner of water which was often used as an auxiliary supply. This became contaminated from a tip of ashpit refuse placed over the channel, and the owner, on representation being made to him, immediately cut off this supply, at the same time altering the system, giving better distribution of water between the higher region on the main road, and the lower, at Butt Bank Cottages. The thanks of the Council are due to Mr W. J. Benson for the prompt action mentioned above, and the improvement resulting from the alterations made. The main portion of Newbrough Village is supplied from a spring on the Newbrough Hall Estate, which gives a pure and plentiful supply. The few houses at Low Stonecroft, are supplied from the spring at Low Stonecroft House.

ALLENDALE.—This village is at present supplied from springs situated on Park-gate Farm. This is collected in a reservoir and passes on to Allendale, and thence to Catton and Thornley Gate. On the former extension there is situated another reservoir on Hope Farm, with the intention of giving an uninterrupted supply to the Catton portion. This supply has proved totally inadequate, and a scheme was approved by the Local Government Board before the war, to take in springs from the Park Allotments, on the opposite side of the valley, to augment the existing supply. On account of the war, this scheme was hung up, and this last summer witnessed a severe shortage of water, particularly at the Catton end of the system. The Park Allotments scheme is now being proceeded with, and it is hoped and expected that this will give an adequate supply.

The latter is the more necessary in this district, as it is essentially a holiday and health resort, and an adequate and wholesome supply of water is a *sine qua non* under these circumstances. The original supply for Catton, from the Sunnyside spring, still exists, but is not much used unless during shortage of the main supply.

ALLENHEADS.—Part of this village is supplied from Woodhead. This supply is in every way satisfactory. There are several separate wells and springs.

SLALEY.—At present there are several wells situated in and about this village, of doubtful quality and uncertain quantity. A scheme is now being prepared to put before the Ministry of Health to supply this village from a spring situated on Colpitts Fell. This spring yields an estimated quantity of 250,000 gallons per day, and is of great purity. It has a slight solvent action upon lead, but this can easily be overcome.

In such a widespread Rural District as this is, there are of necessity many houses which cannot be reached by any organised water supply. These must of necessity look after themselves. The most of such houses have supplies of surface origin, and of doubtful purity. These waters vary with the seasons, and at times must be grossly contaminated. At Carshield, on the West Allen, I think something ought to be done to obtain a water supply. The only one at present is that running on the roadside from the Fell. There are sufficient houses here to justify an undertaking of this nature, and I commend the idea for what it is worth.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Tyne runs east through the district from a point about a mile above Hexham, to the eastern boundary of the district, below Wylam. From the point of bifurcation above Hexham, the North Tyne runs almost due south, dividing the Chollerton sub-district into almost equal halves, and the South Tyne joins it from the West. The River Allen joins the latter at a point about a mile east of Bardon Mill station. The Allen is made up of the waters of the East and West Allen Rivers. The Allen, and higher up, the East Allen form roughly the west boundary of the southern part of the Rural District. There are several other smaller contributory streams both from the north and south, ultimately joining the Tyne at various parts of its course.

To the south side of the district, is the River Derwent, which in part of its course forms part of the southern boundary of this district.

The main streams of the area are rapid flowing, and do not show much evidence of sewage contamination, but some of the

smaller runners show evidence of this, particularly during periods of drought. These will be more fully dealt with in the next section of the report under the heading of DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

ACOMB.—The sewage system of this village consists of a piped drain running down the centre of the main street and discharging untreated sewage into the Poison Burn (which name is self-explanatory) alongside the bridge carrying the road to the village from the Hexham-Chollerton Road. The terraces alongside the latter road are undrained, there being no sewer available. The state of affairs here constitute a distinct nuisance. Some years ago plans were prepared for a sewerage system here, but the owner of the only land suitable attached impossible conditions, and the matter was referred to the Local Government Board asking their assistance, but none was forthcoming. I have again reported this matter to the council, and I strongly recommend that a Provisional Order be applied for here, as the present condition of affairs cannot be allowed to continue, otherwise sanitary legislation in the district will be a mere farce. The burn into which this sewage is discharged runs for about a mile close to these lower terraces of dwelling houses, and the Hexham road, and is a cause of great complaint in the summer weather, both on account of smell, and the breeding of rats.

ALLENDALE.—There are two main sewer outlets discharging into the River East Allen, in an untreated condition. There are four small sewerage works which deal with the sewerage from different parts. These are situated respectively at the north-west side of Wentworth place; at the Dene; at the Lane Foot, Catton; and at the burn at Catton Village. A scheme was sanctioned in 1913 to collect the sewage from Allendale, and treat it, but this was suspended with the intention of introducing a more comprehensive scheme to include Catton, and so reduce the number of smaller works. This was held up on account of the war, and ought now to be proceeded with.

BROOMHAUGH AND RIDING.—At present the main sewer outlet is situated to the north of Broomhaugh, where untreated sewage is discharged into the Tyne. A scheme was sanctioned in 1913 by the Local Government Board, and was commenced in 1915, but had to be hung up on account of the war. Fresh application must be made here for additional funds to carry out this work owing to the enhanced cost of labour and material.

BROOMLEY.—The sewage from Broomley and Painshawfield Estate is collected through two sets of pipes and conducted to

works at Merryshields. The effluent is on the whole good, but the west works are overworked, and liable to flooding. This matter has been reported upon, and steps are being taken to overcome the defect.

BARRASFORD.—The sewage here is collected into works by the side of the North Tyne at Barrasford Mill. The effluent is good.

GUNNERTON.—The sewage from this village is treated in works situated on Gunnerton Burn, close to The Demesne grounds, and discharges a clear effluent into the burn.

CORBRIDGE.—Several sewers discharge untreated sewage direct into the river. Two outlets are situated to the west of the bridge, and one east of the bridge, and all on the north side of the river. One outlet discharges untreated sewage into a water course near the station, on the south side. There is a small sewage works, also on the south side, known as the FARNLEY works, which treats the sewage of that area. Some years ago, there was a competitive scheme adopted, for treating the sewage of this village, but so far nothing has been done. Steps should be taken now to have either this, or some other scheme, put under way, as, when the Tyne is low, there is a considerable amount of contamination of the river at this point.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—The main sewer on the north side discharges into sewage works, and discharges a good effluent into the river. Further east still and also on the north side of the river there is another outlet, which discharges untreated sewage into the river. There is one main sewer on the south side, which discharges untreated sewage. In such a large village as Haydon Bridge, there ought to be proper sewage disposal works, and I think this ought to be done without further delay.

HEDLEY.—This village is sewered and the sewage is treated in up to date works situated to the north east of the village. There is a good effluent, which is discharged into a watercourse.

HORSLEY.—The sewage here is treated by septic tank, and land irrigation. The system is satisfactory, so long as the irrigation channels are kept in good repair, and clean.

HUMSHAUGH.—The sewer from this village is situated in a field to the south east of the village and discharges untreated sewage into the North Tyne.

NEWBROUGH.—The main sewer outlet is in a grass field to the south of the village and discharges untreated sewage into a tributary of the South Tyne. There is also another outlet near Cross-gate Cottages, which discharges untreated sewage into the South Tyne.

FOURSTONES.—The sewer outlet here is to the south of the railway station, and discharges sewage untreated into the South Tyne.

These last two places might combine for the treatment of the sewage before being discharged into the river.

NEWTON.—The main sewer outlet of this village discharges untreated sewage into a watercourse, which has to travel several miles to reach the River Tyne.

OVINGHAM.—This village has two sets of sewers, leading respectively to the east and the west works. These works when in repair, are perfectly efficient, but at the end of the year are in serious disrepair. They have been reported upon, and steps are being taken by this Council to put these into working order again.

OVINGTON.—There are two sewers here both of which discharge untreated sewage into water courses which have to travel considerable distances to reach the main river.

SANDHOE.—The sewer for this place also takes the sewage from OAKWOOD, and passes on to sewage works situated on the river bank near ANICK GRANGE. These works have never been entirely satisfactory as the distributors are continually getting choked and require a man in constant attendance to keep them spraying. In addition there has been trouble with the retaining wall, which gives way periodically. These works require to be put into proper working order, and I recommend that a new distributor be installed here of a more dependable type.

SIMONBURN.—Two outlets discharge untreated sewage into the Simon Burn, a tributary of the North Tyne.

SLALEY.—The present system takes in only part of the village and discharges sewage untreated into an open runner at a distance of about 100 yards south of the village. The other part of the village, at the west end, is unsewered, each house having its own little drain, where any exists at all, discharging at a greater or less—generally less—distance from the premises.

A scheme is now on the way for sewerage the whole of the village, and treating it at works at the south east side of the village, and discharging the effluent into the watercourse mentioned above.

WALL.—The sewage from this village is treated in works near the river, which give a satisfactory effluent.

WARDEN.—The sewer outlet for this village is in a field to the north east of the village, and discharges untreated sewage into the Tyne. The Parochial Committee have contemplated

putting in a sewage scheme here for years, but so far have done nothing in the matter.

WYLAM.—There are four outlets on the north side of the river, one being to the east and three to the west of the bridge. On the south side of the river there are two outlets, one to the east of the bridge, and one at the river side at Hagg Bank.

All of these discharge untreated sewage into the River Tyne. The last named, that of Hagg Bank Cottages, in addition to polluting the river, constitutes a dangerous nuisance, as the sewage collects in stagnant pools at the foot of the bank, walled off from the running water by gravel and sandbanks, and creating foul odours immediately below two rows of cottages. This is too isolated to be treated with the rest of Wylam, and should have a small tank and filter bed erected as soon as possible. The other outlets should be treated, as there is a large amount of crude sewage reaching the river at this point.

WHITTONSTALL.—The sewage system here consists of a piped system collecting from the village and leading to a plantation a considerable distance to the north. There is no nuisance and the effluent has ample land irrigation before being led to a watercourse.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The commonest type of convenience is the old fashioned privy ashpit. Many of these are far too big and encourage infrequent emptying. Many are constructed of pervious materials, and are as a result highly insanitary. Steps are being taken to have these made as sanitary as possible, by replacing the pervious materials by others of impervious nature. This is being taken up chiefly in connection with the Housing Inspection of the District. There is considerable difficulty in some areas in getting these privies efficiently cleansed, but I propose to deal with this feature more extensively under heading of "Scavenging." The following Table gives the approximate number of each type of convenience as compared with the year 1914, the last year of a complete report.

TYPE.	1914.	1919.	During Year Converted.
PRIVIES	4,274	4,278	To W.C.'s, 3
PAIL CLOSETS ..	659	662	Nil.
W.C.'s	1,053	1,060	Nil.

SCAVENGING.—The Ministry of Health ask that a statement be given in this report “as to the character and efficiency of the arrangements for the removal and methods of disposal of house refuse, and the cleansing of earth-closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools in the district.”

In this district each occupier is held responsible for the carrying out of the scavenging of his own premises. This arrangement has up to the present proved as unsatisfactory as it well can be. In remote areas this arrangement is unavoidable, but in the more densely populated villages such as WYLAM, CORBRIDGE, HAYDON BRIDGE, and ALLENDALE, a system of scavenging is urgently required. One of the chief aims of sanitary administration is to prevent the accumulation near any dwelling of deposits of refuse. Where these exist we get masses of rotting and fermenting vegetable matter, with the resultant odours and centres of fly breeding. The rain washes the drainage from these heaps into the soil, often of the circumscribed yard surfaces, the playground of many of the children, with deleterious results upon their health and physique.

There is a large amount of apathy in the district, which results in the ashpits and privies being emptied only when notices are served to enforce this, and not always then. In some parts of the area there is a perfectly legitimate complaint that there is no place to which this refuse can be removed, and I certainly think that the onus of supplying such rests with the Sanitary Authority. This particularly applies to the ALLENDALE district. There is no tip for refuse anywhere near the village, with the result that accumulations are allowed to grow to the utmost limit, and when pressure is brought to bear upon the occupiers by your officials, the deposits are removed to some unauthorised site—such as the roadside, or the river bank—and left there till they are requested to remove them somewhere else. So the game goes on like a game of draughts, the last move being with the depositor. This state of affairs I feel sure you will agree ought not to be allowed to continue, and the remedy rests with the Council by taking the matter up, and establishing a system of scavenging in each of the larger villages in the district.

Application was made to the Ministry of Health during the Autumn to assist the Council in formation of tips without the necessity of collecting the refuse, as the occupiers in many instances signified their willingness to use such, if it could be found. Unfortunately the Ministry did not see its way to offer any suggestion in the matter, and things remain in their previous

very unsatisfactory condition. The Sanitary administration of a district shows its effect in nothing more markedly than in the state of its scavenging, and this is judged by the accumulations that may be found at any time, and according to this standard this district falls very far below the standard.

I strongly urge, as I have done in the past, that this matter be taken up in earnest, and I feel sure that the resultant improvement in the health of the district will more than repay what is after all a trifling addition to the rates. The difficulty that confronts one in this, as in many Public Health measures, is the fact that no return in hard cash can be seen or handled for the cash that is paid out to achieve the object, and it is only by a system of education to the point of appreciating in the country's gain in health, the result of the individual expenditure, that this object will be reached.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Routine Inspections of the district have been made throughout the year, but the number of these is not as great as it would have been had it not been for the fact that special effort was being made to make up lee-way in the Housing Inspection of the district. The following Table, supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, shows that 3,867 visits of inspection were made, and with what results.

NUISANCES, ETC.

The following Notices have been issued to owners and occupiers of premises, to abate nuisances and repair defects on properties during the year, viz.:—

	Informal Notices	Carried out	Statutory Notices	Carried out
Depositing Ashes and other refuse on to back lanes	32	32	2	2
Cleanse Manure Pits	11	10	0	0
Open out Choked Drains	13	13	0	0
Depositing Manure too near houses ...	1	1	0	0
Cleanse Cesspits	8	8	2	2
Protect Water Meters and Hydrants ...	7	7	0	0
Remove Refuse from off yard surfaces ...	28	28	0	0
Cleanse Slaughter House premises ...	11	11	0	0
Limewash Walls of buildings	29	29	0	0
Repair and extend Drain Outlets	4	4	2	2
Cleanse Ashpits, Earth-closets and Privies	154	113*	9	9
Provide Ventilating Shafts on drainage system	2	2	0	0
Relay Defective Drains	5	5	0	0
Cleanse Sewage Works and Irrigation Ground	7	7	0	0
Provide Drainage for Houses, Stables and Byres	3	2	0	0
Repair Defective Water Pipes	4	4	0	0

Provide Waste Pipes on Sink Basins ...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0
Depositing Ashes and other refuse into river	4	...	3	...	0	...	0
Repair dilapidated Ashpits and Privies ...	2	...	2	...	0	...	0
Houses require Cleansing ...	4	...	3	...	0	...	0
Fowls kept to be a nuisance ...	3	...	2	...	0	...	0
Provide proper Ashpits and Privies ...	9	...	9	...	4	...	3
Refuse kept in Slaughter Houses...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0
Pig-sty too near house premises ...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0
Overflowing Ashpits ...	120	...	80*	...	0	...	0
Open out Choked Inlets to Drains ...	13	...	13	...	0	...	0

* Many issued at end of year.

The area is a very large one, and entails much travelling to cover efficiently. During the year the Council appointed as a part time official, Mr. Hindmarsh, the Food Control Inspector, with a view to his taking up full time duties as soon as Food Control ceases. As regards Sanitary matters, this cannot happen too soon, as in this large area there is more than work for one Inspector, and ample for two.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.—There are none of these in this district, and as there are no underground sleeping rooms, there is no need of regulations in respect of such.

SCHOOLS.—There are in this district 41 schools. A large number of which come under the heading Non-Provided.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the district is on the whole satisfactory, though there are varying degrees of perfection. The chief trouble is with the non-provided schools in the area. Some of these are not quite up to the required standard. The defect that strikes one in most of the schools is the condition of the yard surfaces. Most of these are native earth, and these in wet weather, especially if the area of the yard is small compared to the number of children, tend to become very muddy and wet. In the larger schools the yards are ashphalted or cemented, and this should be done as soon as prices of material and labour permit in the others.

The out-offices of the smaller and more remote schools are not as sanitary as they might be. Usually there is an open ashpit, with privies adjoining. Most of these privies have wooden risers, which is anything but conducive to health or comfort of the children. Sanitation at a school ought to be of such a standard as to be in itself a part of the education of the scholars, as the impression of what they see there is carried through life with them, and if that impression be faulty, it takes a lot of

eradicating afterwards. I have been endeavouring throughout the district to induce school managers to cover in all open ash-pits, and to make all privies fly-proof, but I am compelled to say these suggestions have not received very sympathetic consideration.

SCHOOL WATER SUPPLIES.—Most of the school premises are supplied with water, but there are one or two exceptions, where I think something should be done. St. Peter's School, in the Allendale district ought to have a supply laid on, and this matter has been reported upon, and the County Education Committee have had the matter under consideration for some months past. Ninebanks School, in the same area has a water supply that is liable to contamination, and this supply has been found to contain *Bacillus Coli Communis*—a proof of manurial contamination. This matter has also been reported upon, but at the end of the year still nothing had been done. During the year the water at the Barrasford School was analysed and found, in the words of the analyst's report ".....at times nothing more nor less than a cesspit." The managers had this supply discontinued, and have had a new and excellent supply piped in. In the case of smaller schools in the outlying districts the supply is often of the nature of springs in the neighbourhood but these are generally found to be of good quality and sufficient quantity except in the case of Langley School which has as its only supply a small well on the roadside, which is unsuitable and inadequate.

Since last report on water-supply, a piped service has been laid on to Whitley Chapel School, but none so far to the school-house, and this is certainly required.

On the outbreak of any infectious disease in the district, the schoolmaster is informed of all relevant particulars, especially as to which scholars to exclude, and also later, when they may be permitted to re-commence. There is a perfect system of interchange of information between the Health Officials and the school staffs, with undoubted mutual benefit. Owing to the wave of epidemic Influenza, in the early part of the year, a large number of schools had to be closed throughout the district. In the latter months of the year Measles became prevalent and two schools were closed on this account. Owing to the presence of infectious cases in the school at Acomb, this school had to be closed at the end of the year. The following table gives the detail regarding the school closure throughout the district during the year.

SCHOOL.	DISEASE.	DATES.	
		From	To
Whittonstall National	Influenza	20/2/19	7/3/19
Humshaugh Church	"	3/3/19	17/3/19
Hardhaugh	"	3/3/19	17/3/19
Sandhoe Beaum. Ch.	"	24/2/19	17/3/19
Simonburn National	"	26/2/19	12/3/19
Stocksfield Council	"	28/2/19	17/3/19
Barrasford	"	5/3/19	24/3/19
Slaley Council	"	17/3/19	24/3/19
do. Infant	Measles	23/9/19	6/10/19
do. Mixed	"	29/9/19	6/10/19
Acomb C.E.	Scarlet Fever	18/11/19	2/12/19

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—There are registered 268 Cowkeepers and Dairymen responsible for the production of milk in the Rural District.

This being primarily an agricultural district, there is a large amount of milk produced. This is sent out of the district, chiefly to the Newcastle area. It is estimated that at least 3,500 gallons per day are thus exported. The milk supply on the whole is good, but in some instances more attention might be paid with regard to cleanliness. The large producers in the district are fully alive to the necessity of producing a clean milk, but some of the smaller dealers seem to under-value the necessity of preventing contamination. One of the chief causes of dirty milk is the fact that cows have to wade through fluid filth to reach the milking byre, and in so doing, are very liable to have the ventral surfaces soiled. This quickly dries and during the process of milking is brushed into the pail. To remedy this, of course, means insisting upon walled in enclosures for manure, leaving clear and clean passages for the cows. This rests with the property owner, and attempts are being made by your staff to attain this standard. The attention of those handling the milk and milk utensils must be drawn to the necessity of maintaining a standard of cleanliness, as regards their own hands and clothing. Too much care cannot be taken in the production of this, the most important food stuff for the rising generation, and it is only by keeping the above points strongly in evidence that the purity of this product can be maintained.

Since the beginning of the war the Tuberculosis Order has been in suspension and there is at present no official check to the production of tuberculous milk, and I think the time has now come when the Tuberculosis Order should be reinstated.

In the month of April the Council applied to the Ministry of Health, for power to draw up regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, for the more efficient supervision of the milk trade in the district. The sanction of the Ministry for these new regulations was refused, on the grounds that the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Consolidation Order of 1915 would shortly come into force. This has so far not come to pass, and our standard is lower than it would otherwise have been.

MILK, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ORDER, 1918.—In November, 1919, the Council decided to undertake distribution of milk in necessitous cases. Under this order and up to the end of the year, only one case had been dealt with.

Sanction of the Ministry of Health has been applied for, that the power should be delegated to the Food Control Committee, but this sanction has not yet been obtained. It is believed that the execution of the order will ensure that expectant or nursing mothers, and young children will not suffer owing to the exorbitant cost of milk. The services of Medical Practitioners and the County Health Visitors are being made use of to find out in the first place necessitous cases, which are then investigated and dealt with according to their merits.

(b) OTHER FOODS.—Regular inspections are being made of the premises where food is produced and handled, and on the whole these are found to be kept in a very satisfactory state. Slight irregularities are pointed out at the time and these are on the whole willingly remedied. Inspection of foods, etc., in this district are carried out by the County Council who are the responsible authority under the Food and Drugs Act.

On one occasion during the year the Inspector of Nuisances seized three quarters of beef which were obviously unfit for human food.

There are six bakeries on the register and these have been visited at regular intervals and always found satisfactory. There are 26 Slaughter Houses in the district and these have been inspected without warning, at regular intervals. They have been kept on the whole in a very satisfactory condition, but notices have been served in 13 instances for lime-washing, etc., and in one case for keeping ashpit refuse in the slaughter house. The

detail as to the number of inspections, etc., made, will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

At the end of the year application was made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to adopt Model Bye Laws for Slaughter Houses, and when this is obtained, your officials will be able to deal more effectively with these.

The chief defects found at present are structural in character, such as badly laid floors: undue proximity to dwelling houses; and insufficient separation between lairs and slaughter houses. The chief complaint against the occupier is delay in removal of offal, etc., after slaughtering. It would be a distinct advantage if, in the larger villages, where there are several butchers, each with a small slaughter house of his own, a small public slaughter house were established, for the use of which a rent would be asked.

During the year 1919 no carcasses or parts of carcass were condemned on account of Tuberculosis, as the bulk of these were dealt with before distribution throughout the district.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.—During the year 1919, there were in the district 188 cases of notifiable infectious diseases. The details of these are given on Table II. The total number of cases compares favourably with that of 1918, when the number was 230. The following Table gives the comparison between 1918 and 1919, and also the 'attack' rate of each disease.

Disease.	1918		1919		Deaths 1919.	
	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000
Scarlet Fever ...	36	1·8	34	1·6	...	...
Diphtheria ...	6	·3	20	·9	1	·04
Measles ...	166	8·4	84	3·9	...	...
Enteric ...	...	...	1*	·04	...	...
Wh. Cough ...	...	...	...	...	1	·04
Ep. Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	1	·04
Erysipelas ...	7	·35	12	·5	...	...
Tuberculosis L....	13	·6	13	·6	...	...
Do. O....	2	·1	1	·04	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	4	·18	...	...
Pneumonia Inf....	2	·1	13	·6	19	·8
Do. A.Pr.	...	...	6	·28		

* Contracted en route from U.S.A.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free by the Council to the Medical Practitioners upon demand, thus ensuring its prompt use, which in this disease is absolutely essential. It is pleasant to recall that there were no "return cases" of Scarlet Fever after discharge from Hospital.

After Infectious cases treated at the patient's home, or after removal to Hospital, if necessary, disinfection is done by the Sanitary Staff. School premises are also disinfected after closure, in all cases where this is necessary.

After death from Tuberculosis, infected bedding, etc., is dealt with and either disinfected or destroyed.

Four cases of Malaria notified were of recurrent cases in demobilised men, who had been in the East. With regard to these cases one is fully alive to the possibility of these men acting as foci of infection, but fortunately the intermediate host—the Anopheline Mosquito—is not a habitant of this district, although his hardier step-brother, the Culicine Mosquito has been found both in larval form (in some ponds and ditches) and in the insect form; the latter chiefly *Theobaldia*. The official leaflet on Malaria, drawn up by Col. Sir R. Ross and Lt.-Col. S. P. James, has been circulated to all the medical practitioners in the district, so as to draw their attention to the latest methods of treatment of this disease, with, I think, satisfactory results.

It is satisfactory to note that no cases of Dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AIDS TO DIAGNOSIS.—Medical Practitioners have made full use of this assistance in making diagnoses. The following table gives the particulars.

1919. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS MADE.

		DIPH.		TUBERCUL'S.		ENTERIC.		TOTAL.				
		Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.			
January	...	0	3	...	1	6	...	0	0	...	1	9
February	...	0	3	...	0	7	...	0	0	...	0	10
March...	...	2	9	...	1	4	...	0	0	...	3	13
April	...	1	0	...	0	9	...	0	1	...	1	10
May	...	4	8	...	2	3	...	0	1	...	6	12
June	...	1	8	...	1	3	...	0	5	...	2	16
July	...	1	4	...	0	3	...	0	0	...	1	7
August	...	1	1	...	0	6	...	1	2	...	2	9
September	...	0	0	...	1	2	...	0	0	...	1	2
October	...	1	11	...	0	4	...	0	0	...	1	15
November	...	2	2	...	0	2	...	0	0	...	2	4
December	...	3	9	...	0	5	...	0	1	...	3	15
		16	58		6	54		1	10		23	122
TOTALS		-	74		60		11		145			

As soon as any signs of an outbreak of infectious disease appears in any district, full use is made of the school both as a means of investigation and information. On several occasions children of certain standards in the schools have been examined with a view to discover missed cases of Scarlet Fever, and in a similar manner swabs are taken by me, to discover carriers of Diphtheria. Information and assistance is readily given by teachers in this matter, and this would also be welcomed from the School Medical Authorities.

There have been several small outbreaks of Mumps, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox in the district, but on no occasion have they assumed large dimensions and I have been kept informed by, and tendered advice to, the head teachers on all occasions, with reference to the diseases mentioned here. There has been only one death, and that from Whooping Cough.

There has been throughout the district a small number of cases of Influenza of a non-virulent type resulting in death in 13 cases, as compared with 28 last year.

As a result of inquiry into this disease, one comes to the conclusion that the gravity of it is not fully realised. People regard it in its early stages as a simple cold and not worth troubling about. Every opportunity is taken of educating the people to appreciate the gravity of this complaint and to the need of every precaution being taken. Overcrowding in houses, railway trains, cinemas, etc., are all contributory factors.

With regard to notifications of Tuberculosis, these are notified for the most part promptly by the Medical Practitioners, and when a Bacteriological report is received and no notification made, an enquiry is sent to the medical practitioner concerned, pointing out the regulations on the matter.

SMALLPOX.—No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by your Medical Officer under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. There were no cases of Smallpox during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1) The inspection of Midwives and control of the activities of these, come under the jurisdiction of the County Council who are the local supervising authority, under the Midwives Act, 1902 and 1918.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare work is not undertaken by your Council. There is a Welfare centre carried out on voluntary lines at Stocksfield, under the supervision of Dr. Mary Raw, of Newcastle. It is to be remembered that, in such a large area

as this is, with several large, in fact, almost urban villages, more of these centres will have to be established, and I suggest that the responsibility for the furtherance of Infant Welfare, rests with this Council, as the Sanitary Authority for the district.

The Health Visitors, of which there are four, working in this district are under the County Council, acting under the County Medical Officer.

(3) There have been no cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Poliomyelitis notified in the district during the year, and Measles and Whooping Cough have been dealt with elsewhere in this report.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) STAFF.—The Public Health staff of your Council consists of one whole time and one part time Inspectors of Nuisances and your Medical Officer of Health. For eleven weeks during the Autumn a temporary Inspector was engaged for Housing Work.

Considering the fact that your area is the second largest in England, and with over four times the population of the largest area, it will be seen that this staff is by no means excessive for the work entailed. Each succeeding year adds more and more to the work and responsibilities upon your Public Health Officials, and this increased work must be kept pace with. Although reluctant, I must here mention, in fairness to the Council and its officials, one fact which limits the activities of your officials in the execution of their duties. This is the question of travelling. At present your officials have to pay their own expenses (out of an inclusive salary). As you know this is a very wide area and entails much travelling, which has increased both in amount and cost. The result is that the more work your officials do the smaller their remuneration, and I hold that this is not conducive to efficient work. I brought this matter before the Sanitary Committee in November, but they did not see their way to make any alterations. In October a clerk was appointed to assist in the clerical part of the work which had previously been carried out by your out-door officials.

(2) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—You have at Edgewell, in the Prudhoe Urban District, an Infectious Disease Hospital of two wards, with six beds in each. As regards size this hospital is totally inadequate for your district alone, although it also serves the Prudhoe Urban area. The type of building also leaves much to be desired. At present only one type of disease can be treated at one time, which means that with separa-

tion of the sexes, if Scarlet Fever is under treatment in the hospital, then no other disease can be admitted.

At Lightwater in Hexhamshire, you have a Small-pox Hospital, which, fortunately, has never yet been occupied.

During the year 1919 fourteen cases were admitted to hospital from the Rural District, all being Scarlet Fever. No deaths occurred in the hospital during the year.

Plans have been prepared for a new and more up to date building, and the site purchased at Loughlane, near Corbridge, but this site was disapproved by the Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health. So far the Council have been unable to obtain another site for the new hospital. It would seem that power to acquire land for this purpose will be necessary, and assistance from the Ministry of Health is required, for steps such as this, to strengthen the hand of a Local Authority in the interests of the Public Health.

(3) ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.—The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act (1890, Part III.)

Public Health Acts Amendment Act (1907), Part IV., Sections 52-60, and 62 and 63.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act (1890.)

Order of L.G.B. under Sections 169 and 170 of the Public Health Act (1875), and Sections 29, 30, and 31, of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act (1890); for power to make bye-laws for the control of Slaughter Houses already existing in the district.

Of the above, that part of the 1907 Act mentioned has been adopted during the year, and comes into force on the 12th January, 1920, and will give much stricter control over Infectious Diseases.

Your Council have adopted Model Bye-laws for the control of Slaughter Houses, and is now awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Health thereto.

(4) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—Arrangements are in force between the County Council and the Durham College of Medicine by which Bacteriological Examinations are made when necessary, free of charge. As stated under the heading "Infectious Diseases," this is fully taken advantage of, 145 examinations having been made during the year.

The only chemical examinations made in the district during the year under review have been upon samples of water ; of these four have been submitted to the analyst, in each case a bacteriological examination also being made. No reports have been received from the public analyst.

HOUSING.

The area of the Hexham Rural District is a very large one, comprising 196,809 acres, made up of 58 parishes. The Ministry of Health recommend that the following particulars be given by parishes. This, I regret, I am unable to carry out literally, as in the first case inspections were not carried out by parishes, and in the second, records were not kept by parishes. The chief point, as regards Housing in the district, has been up to the present, to get the houses made, and kept fit, and to keep as simple a form of records as is compatible with this object. The fact as to whether these records are by parishes or otherwise will not affect the conditions under which the occupiers have to live, and this I hold should be the first consideration. The table at the end of this report gives statistics as far as possible by parishes. As the conditions are more or less similar all over the district, I propose to deal with the general conditions as a whole.

(I.) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT :—

- (1) NUMBER OF HOUSES : The total number of houses in the district is 5,256.

The working class houses total 3,182.

The new houses erected for working classes during 1919 total 6.

The number under course of erection during the year is 5.

- (2) POPULATION : The population of the Rural District is, according to figures calculated from Food Controller's Register in December, 21,225. Apart from the return from Military Service of a large number of men, there has been no marked variation of the population during the year, nor is it anticipated that there will be in the immediate future.

- (3) (a) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE OR EXCESS OF HOUSES : Along the main Tyne Valley, and the railways in the district, there is a shortage of houses, but in the outlying fringes of the district empty houses are quite common.

There are throughout the district 274 houses containing more than 2 occupants per room, and in some cases this standard does not amount to Statutory overcrowding, in the sense of the cubic air space per occupant.

To set off against this there are 41 empty houses in the district, and 58 houses let only to summer visitors—a total of 99 houses not occupied by regular inhabitants of the district.

- (b) MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO MEET SHORTAGE : The Council have a scheme to provide in this district 162 houses at the end of the year. The sites are in the hands of the District Valuer, having been approved by the Housing Commissioner.

These sites are distributed as follows :—

DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF		ACREAGE	
	HOUSES.		OF LAND.	
Acomb	15	...	2
Allendale	10	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Broomhaugh } Riding	...	8	...	1
Broomley	10	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chollerton } Barrasford	...	6	...	1
Corbridge	8	...	1
Haydon	10	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ (Langley)	8	...	1
Horsley	6	...	1
Humshaugh	5	...	1
Newbrough	8	...	1
Newton	2	...	1
Ovingham	8	...	1
Ovington	8	...	1
Slaley	4	...	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wall	2	...	$\frac{1}{2}$
Fourstones	10	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hardhaugh	4	...	$\frac{1}{2}$
Whittonstall	4	...	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wylam	20	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cocklaw	6	...	$\frac{3}{4}$
—				—
		162	...	22 $\frac{1}{4}$

(II) OVERCROWDING :

- (1) EXTENT.—See reply to I. 3. (a.)
- (2) CAUSES.—There are several causes of overcrowding in this area, none of which are peculiar to this district. Some people will not pay the rent necessary for a larger house, but prefer to squeeze into as small a house as possible. Again, in some of the villages, some of the houses are let as furnished houses to people belonging to Newcastle or other districts. These are to be found as follows :—

Acomb	...	...	2
Allendale District	...	...	10
Allenheads	...	...	9
Catton	...	...	5
Corbridge	...	...	18
Haydon Bridge	...	...	4
Stocksfield	...	...	2
Slaley District	...	...	4
Wylam	...	...	2

If these houses could be obtained for necessary residents it would certainly assist to overcome the existing shortage.

Another factor in overcrowding is the fact that the usual number of houses has not been built during the war. The average before the war was 18·8 per year, and during the 4 years January 1st, 1915—December 31st, 1918, 37 were built.

- (3) MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO DEAL WITH OVERCROWDING.—The only solution to overcrowding at present, is to push on the building of new houses. As soon as these are built the cases where overcrowding exist will have first offer of the new houses, and as they vacate their present houses, these in turn will be taken up by other families.
- (4) No cases of overcrowding could be dealt with during the year, as no houses were available where these existed.

(III) FITNESS OF HOUSES :

- (1) (a) GENERAL STANDARD OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.—On the whole the general standard is fairly good, considering that the prevailing type is the old-fashioned country house. Most, however, belong to private owners, very few being “tied” houses.

- (b) GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST IN UNFIT HOUSES.—The actually unfit houses are few. The character of defects found are chiefly dampness in walls, dilapidated walls and roofs, defective lighting and ventilation, and lack of drainage and water supply.
- (2) ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES, UNDER
- (a) Public Health Act. NIL.
- (b) Under Housing Acts. Representations were made with regard to these unfit houses, 2 at Broomley and 1 at Coalcleugh.
- (3) DIFFICULTIES IN REMEDYING UNFITNESS, SPECIAL MEASURES TAKEN, AND ANY SUGGESTIONS IN THE MATTER.—The only difficulty is the question of getting accommodation for the occupiers of these houses. Closing orders will be made by the Council, and held up till such time as these houses can be vacated.
- (4) CONDITIONS, SO FAR AS THEY AFFECT HOUSING, AS REGARDS WATER SUPPLY, CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, AND REFUSE DISPOSAL, TOGETHER WITH MEASURES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR IN THESE MATTERS.—The subject has been dealt with in the text of the report. Particular reference may be made to Acomb. Here there is prospect of increased housing being required on account of industrial developments. The water supply here is not sufficient for the existing houses. Steps are being taken to have this augmented, but at end of year no success is to be recorded. Associated with this is the question of drainage. At present no sewerage works are available, and no proper sewers exist. These points will require to be borne in mind in any building scheme here. If the Ministry of Health could strengthen the hand of the Local Authority with regard to acquiring land for sewerage works, the scheme of sewerage and disposal could go on, as the scheme itself is prepared, but hung up over the difficulty of land.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—This has been dealt with in the text of the report. I repeat here the fact that the collection of refuse is at present in the hands of the occupiers.

(IV) UNHEALTHY AREAS :

This does not apply to a Rural District.

(V) BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES
LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, ETC. :

The only bye-laws are those relating to new buildings.

(1) AS TO WORKING OF EXISTING BYE-LAWS.—

These work satisfactorily as far as Sanitary Matters are concerned.

(2) AS TO NEED FOR NEW BYE-LAWS OR REVISION OF
EXISTING BYE-LAWS.

There is no need for either from the Sanitary point of view.

(VI) GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS, ETC. :

There is no point requiring attention that has not already been raised.

(VII).

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) are dealt with by parishes in the table appended.

(8) The staff engaged in housing work in the area consists of Medical Officer of Health, Inspector of Nuisances, and part time of Mr Hindmarsh, the Food Control Inspector, and Assistant Inspector of Nuisances.

During three months of the autumn of the year a temporary Inspector was employed to get through the inspection of the Housing Survey of the Ministry of Health.

The clerical work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by a clerk.

As pointed out in the commencement of this Section, the chief aim has been to get the work done, and the clerical work has been, of necessity, reduced to the minimum.

The great difficulty of the Inspection Work has been the question of travelling, and this increases more and more as the work develops.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Like all other areas, that under your administration has suffered from stagnation during the period of the war, and this

leaves a large leeway to make up. Several progressive schemes were under way, or under consideration, when war broke out, and these had to be shelved. This in most cases means that a new start has to be made, and these schemes are now handicapped by the scarcity and increased cost of labour and material; so much is this the case that there is a certain degree of hesitation in shouldering the burden. The cost of living has so much increased that the prospects of an additional rating, for the carrying out of these schemes already under consideration, is no pleasant one. In addition to these you will find throughout this report various schemes recommended which have not yet been taken up by your Council, and I consider that I would be failing in my duty both to the Council and to the inhabitants of the district if I did not put these forward. I have done so in the hope that you will see your way to consider them, and carry them out if you think fit, as soon as you deem it possible to do so. I refer particularly to the sewerage and scavenging schemes in the more densely populated villages. The Public Health Acts, although far-reaching in some respects, fall far short of the ideal in others; for instance, a Council such as this requires power by which it can acquire, when necessary, land for the purpose of hospitals, sewerage works, and refuse tips. At present it is dependent entirely upon the good will (or otherwise) of the various landlords, and in several cases schemes have been abortive on these grounds.

I have again to thank you, Gentlemen, for the assistance you have given me at all times in the course of my work amongst you, and beg to express the hope that the mutual confidence will continue. We are passing through very troublesome and difficult times, and we can only hope for the best results by whole-hearted co-operation. My only aim is that the Hexham Rural District will be second to none, and, if possible, may lead the way for others to follow.

My best thanks are also due to your Clerk, Mr Nicholson, and his able assistant, Mr Hamilton, from both of whom I have at all times received much wholesome advice and help. I beg also to thank Mr Waugh and Mr Hindmarsh for their able co-operation and assistance,

And to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN STEEDMAN.

TABLE NO. 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population of each year, estimated from 1911 to 1918)	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Un. corrected Number.	Nett.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
									Number.	Rate.		
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1913..	22169	417	419	18.9	282	11.3	9	20	30	71.6	293	12.3
1914..	22293	428	429	19.5	250	11.1	3	8	24	56.6	258	11.4
1915..	22293	424	427	19.1	296	13.3	6	17	39	91.3	303	13.6
1916..	20634	383	386	17.1	293	14.2	13	26	27	69.9	306	14.8
1917 1918)	No Record kept of these years.											
1919.	21225*	366	376	17.7	259	12.2	10	29	21	57.3	278	13.09†

* This Population is estimated as at December, 1919, from register of Food Control Committee.

† Corrected for difference in age and sex distribution.—12.27.

Area of District, 196.809 Acres.

Total population at all ages.....21,890,
 No. of Inhabited Houses 4,972
 Average of persons per house 4.4
 Above from Census 1911.

Table No. 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1919.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.										Total cases notified in each Locality.				No. of cases re-moved to Hospital from each locality.				
	At all Ages	Under 15.										Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham
		1 to 1	2 to 2	3 to 3	4 to 4	5 to 5	6 to 6	7 to 7	8 to 8	9 to 9	10 to 10								
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	20	..	1	2	12	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	12	..	..	..	..	1	3	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	34	..	..	5	23	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tubercle (Pulmy. Other)	13	..	..	..	1	1	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	*1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	84	..	4	20	45	7	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (Ac. P. Infl.)	6	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria Rec...	13	..	..	..	2	2	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals..	188	0	6	27	84	21	36	12	2										

* Contracted en route from U.S.A.

Table No. 3.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1919.

Causes of Death.	Analysis of Nett deaths according to age.									Total deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Institutions in the District.
	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upw'rds	All Ages.	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Enteric Fever
Smallpox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping-cough	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria and Croup	1	..	..	1	..
Influenza	1	3	3	3	3	13	..
Erysipelas
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1	9	3	1	14	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	..	..	..	1	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	5	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	1	4	15	8	28	..
Rheumatic Fever	3	..	..	1	..	4	..
Meningitis	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Organic Heart Disease	3	14	32	49	..
Bronchitis	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	9	16	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	..	..	2	6	9	20	..
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	..	..	..	1	2	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis
Cirrhosis of Liver
Alcoholism
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	1	..	2	7	3	14	..
Puerperal Fever
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	4	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	8	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..
Violent deaths excluding suicide	1	..	..	1	5	1	1	9	..
Suicides	1	2	..	3	..
Other Defined Diseases	3	2	..	1	1	3	15	50	75	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown
TOTALS	21	8	5	9	10	35	72	118	278	3

Table No. 4.

Infant Mortality During 1919.

Net Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Smallpox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth - - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations - - -	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth - - -	3	...	...	1	4	2	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus - - -	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Other causes - - -	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	1	5
All causes { Certified.	9	1	...	1	11	4	2	1	2	20
{ Uncertified.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
GRAND TOTALS -	10	1	...	1	12	4	2	1	2	21

1.—Factory and Workshops Table.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories... ..	41	11	...
Workshops	113	13	...
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Total	154	24	...

2.—Defects Found in Factories, &c.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (Limewashing) ...	23	23	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	1	1	...
Total	23	24	1	...

3.—Home Work.

None of the Industries enumerated are carried out in this District, except the making and cleaning of Wearing Apparel.

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, 75.

These comprise Laundries, Dressmakers, Milliners, Blacksmiths, Joiners and Cartwrights, Boot and Shoemakers, Cycle Repairers, etc.

5.—Other Matters.—Nil.

Particulars of HOUSING by Parishes.

Contributory Places.	Population, Dec. 1919.	HOUSES.						I.		II.			III.			Closing Orders.		Demolition Orders		No. of Houses demolished voluntarily	Obstructive Buildings	
		Total Number	Working Class	Overcrowded (over 2 per room).	With more than one family	Erected in 1919.	Being erected 1919.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they were unfit for human habitation		No. inspected under and for the purpose of the Sec. of Housing Act, 1909	No. considered unfit for Human Habitation.	No. of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without making Closing Orders	No. of Orders (informal) issued for repair of houses	No. of cases in which repairs have been carried out by Local Authority	No. of houses voluntarily closed by owner on notice that they could not be repaired without reconstruction.	No. of representations made to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	No. of Closing Orders made.	Closing Orders determined on houses being made fit for habitation.	No. of Demolition Notices made.			No. of Houses demolished in pursuance of Orders made
								By House-holders.	By Parish Coun'ls													
1 Acomb	1023	222	154	20	3	1				93		10	38									
2 Allendale... ..	2020	701	431	23		3	1			304		32	235									
3 Aydon	104	20	7							17		2	23									
4 Aydon Castle	30	3	2							2												
5 Bearle	60	12	11							9												
6 Bingfield	82	16	9							7			6									
7 Blackcarts and Ryehill	15	4	1							4												
8 Broomhaugh	269	57	35	3						35												
9 Broomley	1537	387	290	21	6	1	2			201	2	8	9	-	-	2						
10 Bywell	178	34	26							19												
11 Chollerton	1116	264	192	13			1			147		32	31									
12 Clarewood	80	17	11							15												
13 Cocklaw	169	36	27							29												
14 Corbridge	2128	531	412	16			1			427												
15 Dilston	230	58	36		3					42												
16 Dukes Hagg	9	1																				
17 Espersields	120	26	18							14												
18 Fallowfield	34	5	4							5												
19 Hallington	90	20	11		1					12												
20 Halton	54	7	5							5												
21 Haughton	106	21	14							8												
22 Haydon	2159	554	286	52	3	1				460		22	150									
23 Healey	90	16	14	2						11			1									
24 Hedley	301	57	38							40		5	17									
25 Hexham High Quarter...	120	35	14							32		7	17									
26 Hexham Low Quarter ...	310	83	49	1						71		6	12									
27 Hexham Middle Quarter	180	42	14	1						18		4	10									
28 Hexham West Quarter...	204	38	24							26		3	8									
29 High Fotherley	51	13	8							12												
30 Horsley	397	85	66	8	1					73		4	24									
31 Humshaugh	457	110	80	10	2					110												
32 Nafferton	50	7	7							7												
33 Newbrough	720	182	151	17						163			1									
34 Newlands	116	24	18							22												
35 Newton	121	28	17	4	1					22												
36 Newton Hall	130	30	26							21												
37 Ovingham	379	92	79	7						92												
38 Ovington... ..	499	110	93	16	6					102		3	30									
39 Portgate	56	17	12							15												
40 Riding	229	59	31							31			1									
41 Sandhoe	376	99	69							42			1									
42 Shotley High Quarter ...	230	65	37							30												
43 Shotley Low Quarter ...	460	110	54							54		2	7									
44 Simonburn	325	84	64	3						62												
45 Slaley	347	105	53	6						72		4	10									
46 Spittle	6	1																				
47 Stelling	56	12	9							5												
48 Styford	85	17	10							6												
49 Thornbrough	54	14	11							9												
50 Wall	362	85	59	4	1					52		20	28									
51 Warden	827	181	154	26	1					112		16	91									
52 Welton	47	12	9							9												
53 West Allen	416	136	89							34	1	10	47	-	-	1						
54 Whittington, Great ...	196	51	30	6						34		12	15									
55 Whittington, Little ...	11	2	1							2												
56 Whittle	25	5	3							3												
57 Whittonstall	164	40	32							40												
58 Wylam	1215	312	154	29	1					263												
	21,225	5355	3521	288	29	6	5			3552	3	202	812			3						

SCHEDULE OF FORMS USED.

FORM A.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

.....19

To.....

.....

Owing to the presence of Infectious Disease in your Vicinity your premises are regarded as
"infected." All persons residing therein must refrain from attending school, picture-house, church,
sunday-school, shops, or any other place where there may be gatherings of people.

(Due notice will be given when these restrictions are removed.

Unless fresh cases occur, the above instructions will remain in force till.....

Attention is drawn to Sect. 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which imposes a penalty of £5 for
exposure of an infected person or things, and the public are hereby warned that it is the
intention of the Hexham Rural District Council to see that these Regulations are strictly ad-
hered to.

.....

Medical Officer of Health.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS
BEAUMONT SREET, HEXHAM.

.....19

To.....

.....

No fresh cases of Infectious disease having occurred in your vicinity since last notice, you may now consider all restrictions removed

.....
Medical Officer of Health.

Confidential.

FORM C.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

.....19

To Schoolmaster,

.....School.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that, attending your school, is suffering of....., and I request that you will observe the from....., and instructions of the Board of Education with regard to the exclusion of members of this family, and also to report to me any suspicious cases of contacts, etc.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN STEEDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Confidential

FORM D.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,

BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM

.....19

To Schoolmaster,

.....School.

Dear Sir.

With reference to previous note (Form C.) sent you with regard to
..... of
....., I have to inform you that the house referred to is now clear of infection,
and children may safely attend school from

Yours faithfully,

JOHN STEEDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Medical Officer of Health,

Hexham Rural District Council,

Town Hall,

HEXHAM.

Form E.

(Date).....19

I hereby certify that the Patient

of....., is now clear of infection, and that the

house ^{*requires} disinfection by the Sanitary Authority.
^{*does not require}

Signature of Medical Attendant.....

This form, when completed, to be sent to the Medical Officer of Health at above address.

* Strike out one which does not apply.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HEXHAM.

.....19

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that

of

has this day been removed

to the Council's Isolation Hospital.

Yours faithfully,

J. STEEDMAN,

To Dr.

Medical Officer of Health.

No. A.
HENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
COUNTERFOIL.

Consumer
Address
.....
Supplied on account of
Nursing, Expectant MotherPints
.....Children under 18 months"
.....Children under five years"
TotalPints
Dealer
Address
.....
From.....192.....
To.....192.....
Application No.....
Date.....
.....192.....

No. B.
HENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HENHAM.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ORDER), 1918.

To.....
Address

You are entitled to obtain

From
Address

MILK to the amount of.....Pints daily, from
.....192....., till
.....192....., the
whole } cost being paid by the above Council
..... }
under the above Order.

If at expiry of above period a further supply is
required, fresh application must be made to above
address, quoting number at top right hand corner.

*If for any reason the above supply is not
obtainable, or supplied, communicate at once with
the Medical Officer of Health, at above address,
quoting number.*

..... Medical Officer of Health.
Date.....192.....
[To be retained by Consumer].

No. C.

HENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HENHAM.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

To.....
Address

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORISED by above Council
to supply

To.....
Address

.....Pints of Milk daily, charging { whole
cost to above Council on attached form, D.
From192..
To192..
(both dates inclusive).

.....
Medical Officer of Health.
Date.....192..

[To be retained by Retailer.]

No. D.

HENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

ABOVE COUNCIL

DR. to.....
Address

MILK SUPPLIED UNDER ABOVE ORDER

To.....
Address

From192..
To192..
(both days inclusive).

.....Pints daily "per pint :
Amount ... £ : :

Signature of Milk Retailer
Date.....192..

To be sent to Medical Officer of Health, Public Health
Department, Town Hall Buildings, Hexham, filled up
on completion of period.

Annual Report

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Heysham

Heysham Urban District

FOR 1919.

MORECAMBE.

" Visitor " Printing Works, Victoria Street,

1919.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
Heysham Urban District
FOR 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Heysham Urban District
Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 16th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Heysham District.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is that of boarding house keeping, and farming is the chief industry in the outlying district.

A considerable number of men are employed at the Heysham Harbour, and a few men and girls at the Bobbin Works. The Sandylands Laundry also gives employment to a few girls and men. Apart from the above there are practically no industries, with the exception of shop-keeping.

The population at the last census in 1911 was 3,350, and that for 1919 has been estimated at 3,804 for the purpose of finding the birth rate, and at 3,652 for the death rate, the latter estimate excluding all soldiers on active service.

The water supply is ample, and of good quality. It is obtained from the hills outside Lancaster. There has been a shortage in the Sandylands District during the summer months, mainly due to the supply pipe being of too small a calibre, but I am pleased to say that the Council have a scheme in hand for erecting an emergency tank, and putting in a larger supply pipe.

The scavenging is done by the Council's workmen, and the house refuse is carted on to farms on the outskirts of the district. In the summer months all ashpits, etc., are emptied during the night. There are now 1,080 moveable ashbins in use in place of fixed receptacles.

Nine privies have been converted into water closets during the year, but there are still 46 privies remaining, as well as 4 pail closets and 20 waste water closets. I hope, however, that in course of time this number will be greatly reduced. Several other privies have already been scheduled for conversion to w.c.'s, two of these are now in the course of construction, and I have no doubt that the remaining ones will be attended to during the next few months. Earth closets are still in use at the Higher Heysham School, and I hope that these will receive your attention during the coming year.

A number of complaints have been made that the sewage tank near Combermere Road is not emptied with sufficient frequency. This I consider a serious matter, and I would suggest that there should be fixed times for doing this work, so that there can be no possibility of its being overlooked.

There are no rivers or streams in the district liable to pollution.

I have, accompanied by Mr. Miller, your Sanitary Inspector, visited a number of houses during the year, and have also made independent inspections when necessary. Any defects found have been remedied, and these have mainly been of a minor nature, such as drains being blocked for want of attention, etc. Eight informal and two statutory notices were served during the year, and the number of nuisances abated was 10. There were no houses considered unfit for habitation, and no closing orders were made.

There are no lodging houses, and no offensive trades are carried on in the district, with the exception of the bone manure works, at which 5 men are employed.

There is only one underground bakehouse, and this is well lighted and ventilated.

Only one slaughterhouse is now in use in the district, and this is kept clean and frequently whitewashed. There is no public abattoir.

The milk is mainly procured from farmers living in or near the Heysham district; it is of a pure and wholesome character, and is delivered twice daily. The Council has given power to the Medical Officer of Health to order a supply of milk either free, or at a reduced price to expectant mothers or babies in necessitous cases.

There have been no prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act.

The Schools at Sandylands and Higher Heysham are well lighted and ventilated and are supplied with town's water. The sanitary arrangements are good, with the exception that at the Higher Heysham School earth closets are still in use. I have already drawn your attention to this matter in the earlier part of my report.

The school children are regularly examined by the School Medical Officer.

The Sandylands School was closed for 14 days in February, owing to the prevalence of influenza, and children suffering from contagious diseases have been isolated.

Four new houses have been completed during the year, and 11 others are now being erected, and from the number of plans which have been submitted, there seems every prospect of a much greater activity in the building trade during the coming year.

The Council has now under consideration a plan for erecting a number of houses to relieve the shortage due to the check on the building trade caused by the war.

I have visited all the cowsheds during the year, and most of them are in good condition. Some are, however, still roughly paved, and would be much improved by having a cemented floor.

Very few improvements have been made in the condition of the roads during the last 5 years. During the present year the main road from Higher Heysham to the Middleton Road Bridge has been repaired, and also that part of Lancaster Road from Bone Mill Lane to the Railway Bridge. The remaining portion of Lancaster Road from the Railway Bridge to White Lund is in very bad condition, but I understand that the Council has already made arrangements to have this road repaired. A large number of the streets and roads have never been properly made, and very little work has been done in this connection for some years. The Grosvenor Road has been temporarily repaired during the present year, but none of the other roads have received any attention.

The Council has decided to have a number of these roads temporarily repaired, and this I think would meet the present requirements. There is the possibility, however, that some of the property holders will refuse their consent to having the work done, and in that case I should strongly recommend the Council to have the roads properly made. I have frequently called your attention to the very bad state of many of these roads, and no consideration should be allowed to stand in the way of having at least some improvement made in their condition. I beg to again call your attention to the dangerous state of the Promenade. There is no protective railing, and there have been frequent accidents from both children and adults falling off the Promenade on to the fore-shore.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Forty-eight cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year. There were 3 cases of erysipelas, 13 of scarlet fever, 18 of measles, 1 of encephalitis lethargica, 6 of acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia, 5 of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 of other forms of tubercular disease. The case of encephalitis lethargica was in a child of 2 years of age, but was evidently not of a serious nature, the child making a complete recovery. Of the 13 cases of scarlet fever, 11 were removed to the fever hospital. The proportionately large number of cases of tuberculosis is mainly accounted for by the fact that 4 out of the 6 cases notified were in people who were suffering from the disease before coming to reside in the district.

There was a severe epidemic of influenza in the early part of the year. This was especially prevalent amongst children, and, as already mentioned, it was necessary to close the Sandylands School during the height of the epidemic.

The fever hospital consists of 2 buildings, each containing 4 beds. One of these buildings is used for isolating cases of scarlet fever, and the other is reserved for small-pox.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Death Rate.—There were 61 deaths during the year, 25 of males and 36 of females. This gives a death rate of 16.7 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is a decrease of 2.5 on the rate for last year, but is still 3.1 above the average for the last 10 years.

There were three deaths from influenza, 2 in males and 1 in females. Five deaths were due to tubercular diseases, which gives a death rate of 1.09 per 1,000. This is a much higher rate of mortality than generally obtains in the Heysham District, and is 0.72 above the average for the last 10 years. As in the case of the notifications, this is accounted for by the fact that 3 of the 5 deaths were in people who were suffering from the disease before coming to reside in the district.

There were 7 deaths from cancer and 10 from heart diseases.

Six deaths occurred from bronchitis, 3 from pneumonia, and one from other respiratory diseases. There was one death from appendicitis, one from nephritis and one from congenital debility.

Birth Rate.—The number of births during the year was 41, 20 of males and 21 of females. This gives a birth rate of 10.7, which is 2.2 below the average for the last 10 years.

Infant Mortality.—There was only one death in infancy, and this took place in St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in a child of 7 days old. This gives the very low rate of mortality of 24 per 1,000 births, and which is 80 per 1,000 below the rate for last year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD HERD,

Medical Officer of Health,

Heysham Urban District.

